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16th Meeting

Subject: Plan LACT - Progress Report Report No.: PIR-9196
Place Acquired: Italy, Rome Date of Info.: Jan.-Mar. '51
Evaluation: B-2 Date Acquired: April 1951
Source: [] Date of Report: 23 April 1951

- Edman's* →
1. On Thursday, 15 February 1951, at 1300 hours, Source again met Subject of Plan, not having seen him since the beginning of January. Source reconstituted with Subject over two lapses of time, even though he already knew he had been absent from Rome and had later been ill. Subject confirmed these facts and explained that in December he had suffered a severe liver attack and that as soon as he returned from abroad he was stricken with influenza.
 2. The conversation next wandered on to inconsequential matters and to an uneventful discussion of current events. Then it was brought around to a discussion of Subject's own activity and the activity of others, which is summarized below:
at Israel
ARTHUR BEN NATHAN
 3. In reply to Source's question, Ben Nathan told him that the internal situation of the Israeli IS had cleared up and become consolidated around the previous existing organization without changes or substitutions. **SHIMON** is the undisputed chief of the service. *at Israel*
NATHAN The position is not very strong. He has charge of the Western sector and the man who is closest to him is Subject, whose advice is very much needed.
 4. Subject explained that the much-ferred charges failed to come about because any removal or substitution of **SHIMON** would have halted or slowed up the work in the Western sector and any removal of **BOUIS** (Im), who knows the European and Asiatic East very well, would have caused serious difficulties to the Government in Tel Aviv and might have slowed up the flow of migration from the Iron Curtain countries toward Israel, which would have been considered a serious damage to the little State.
 5. Subject went on to explain that in Israel the relationship among various elements of the population is almost paradoxical. The situation is unique in the world, but it is very important for defensive aims and functions, since the preponderance of men, mostly very young and suitable for bearing arms, over women is about 4 to 1. The unproductive part of the population and the part that cannot be used for defensive purposes (the old and the children) is a relatively small percentage. This situation enables the State of Israel to organize a proportionately impressive army in short order, which will be made up of men militarily trained and experienced in the greatest European armies, coming from the Red Army, the Polish Army, the Wehrmacht, etc. This constitutes a sum of experience which has its own value.

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6. But the situation in Israel, which is already firm, is rapidly improving, an improvement contributed to by the accords established with Transjordan, which blindly follows the political line favored by the Tel Aviv Government and constitutes a disabie thorn-in-the-flesh of the Arab League. Israel is endeavoring to become a state of ten million citizens. When it has reached this numerical proportion, it will no longer have any fear for the future and can brilliantly hold in check all of the Arab countries together.
7. Source asked Subject if he could furnish some information on Tullio CASTIBOLOGNESS, who apparently is an Israeli intel. Source asked Subject immediately said he is Israeli intel. Source asked and that he is the man who has taken Dan AVNI's place. However, CASTIBOLOGNESS is far from achieving AVNI's production, since he lacks the capacity to run down information and to make useful friendships. Avv. CASTIBOLOGNESS has the job, in view of his cultural preparation, of compiling reports of a political character for the Israeli Legation, but from an espionage point of view, Subject said he is a fool. Subject went on to say that Silvio COILL, who was a leg-man for Dan AVNI, no longer has any contact with the Israeli Legation.
8. Source Comment: Arrico CASTIBOLOGNESS has taken Dan AVNI's position and uses AVNI's car, license A.I.L. 118. He is an Israeli citizen and is, among other things, assigned to preparing political reports for the Legation. He is also in contact with Minister Shimon PERES.
9. In answer to a question from Source, Subject affirmed that the Israeli service is now regularly furnishing funds again as before, but that he personally feels the agent payments are excessively high (they are of the order of 200 to 300 thousand lire monthly); and that one of these days, such subsidies will have to cease.
10. Source asked Subject how and where he works. Subject replied that the top floor of the Legation at 2 Via Roma is completely at his disposition. His personnel includes two radiotelegraphists; one stenographer; two clerks; one accountant (KIMON). Subject says he goes to the Legation every day, preferably toward evening, and says that he only needs an hour to complete his work.
11. The area of Subject's interest continues to be the Arab countries. Occasionally the agents gather information concerning other sectors, as for example Italy, but this is the result of comprehensible momentary exceptions, and is primarily due to their excess of zeal. The activity of the Israeli service is directed against the Arab countries and in particular against Egypt.
12. Italy is of interest to Israel for intelligence purposes only insofar as it is an observation point of the first order, because of the influence Italy still exerts in Africa, and because of the coordinating function which the Vatican tends to exert together and apart from the Arab League countries in protecting Vatican interests in Jerusalem, interests which run contrary to the rights acquired by the State of Israel.
13. "My task," said Subject, "and I want you to believe me without reserve, is purely of an informational nature; intelligence) character and is not operating against Italy, but against the enemies of Israel." Subject went on to say that his net into Egypt is now in full operation.

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Reportedly recruited by Israeli T-5 and sent to Egypt

He said he has now succeeded in recruiting the (princess) (sic) IRONIA and he has recently sent her to Egypt. Subject expects a considerable return from her, since she is a woman of some standing. She is capable and intelligent and has a wealth of possibilities in view of her connections. Then Subject went on to say that there is a former Italian colonial in Egypt (he did not remember the name—Subject's frequent failing) who furnishes information to everyone, to the Israeli (through Subject), to the Italian service, and to others, and according to Subject, he is an excellent source. Subject concluded by asking what there is in Italy, after all, which might interest the Israeli service?

14. Source said these were beautiful words, but an intelligence service, to establish contacts, and for the purpose of building up liaison equity, can have an indirect interest in and perform the work of other services. Naturally, Subject excluded such a possibility in his case. Finally he confided to Source that through one of his men, he has succeeded in obtaining virtually all the papers in the files of the Transjordan Legation at 25 Via Po and from the Iraqi Legation at 19 Lungotevere delle Torri.

15. Source Comment: He will cautiously try to identify the individual who is used indirectly by Subject, but it will be difficult to turn the operation, since Source is in a position to offer many smiles, but no money.

16. Subject gave Source some intelligence material (already forwarded to headquarters in microfilm). Then Source took this occasion to ask Subject if the same material had been passed to [] service. Subject replied that what he had given Source was exclusively for him, but that [] service received a lot of material directly from BEN NATAN, which Source has later observed reproduced in the DECEPHRE service monthly bulletin of "Foreign Countries."

17. Source Comment: In telling Source this, since Subject has entered into contact with [] Subject no longer complains, as he once did, that he was forced to be a mere messenger boy. It is clear that the role which Subject carries out now between BEN NATAN and [] service satisfies Subject's self-pride.

18. The relationship between FIERA and PERIC (see previous reports) is rather tense. Subject claimed that he did not know the reason. Source Comment: It is known through [] that PERIC claims FIERA owes him money and that the tension existing in their relationship does not have any other motive. It is really surprising that Subject does not admit to knowing the reasons.

19. Subject went on to speak of FIERA's ability and of his own friendship for [] in rather glowing terms. Source had the impression that Subject wished to portray his own contacts with FIERA as being less cordial than they really are. It is a system Subject uses all the time. Subject spoke well, spontaneously, of [] from the general point of view, but from the point of view of intelligence work, Subject judged [] to be still improperly prepared to assume the functions entrusted to him. He then mentioned to Source

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✓/ [] was presence of two American officers at the offices of [] service, something which Subject has noted for some time. These officers, according to Subject, are in effect directing the intelligence activity of [] service.

20. Subject then spoke to Source about Maxim MAXIMO (reported aka MAXIMO), who is still at Tel Aviv and has two European representatives: Suspect agent of the Cominform

- a. One in Switzerland, whose name Subject does not remember; and
- b. Marcus MARSHALL (PINA) 216 Via Indipendenza, Milan, Italy

MAXIMO continues to take care of his business in Italy through the services of these two representatives.

21. Source Comment: Maxim MAXIMO is known to the files as a suspected agent of the Cominform. The fact that he is represented by a man such as MARSHALL (alias PINA) tends to confirm his dangerous character from an intelligence point of view, since Marcus MARSHALL is one of the men who handle the financing of the PCI through the multimodal commercial activity involving INDIPENDENZA and the American Commercial Company. The other representative of MAXIMO in Switzerland is probably Giorgio GILCARELLI, who was entrusted by MAXIMO last summer with an errand to his compatriot at Rome, Ugo GUERINELLI, to collect the latter's influence with the Italian authorities for MAXIMO.

22. During the course of the conversation, as soon as an opportunity presented itself, Source asked Subject for information about his friend, Cyril ROLLO. According to Subject ROLLO is now in the British Zone of Germany and has been there for two months.

23. Source Comment: ROLLO, who was formerly second secretary of the British Embassy in Rome, had an intelligence assignment. In September 1950, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported that ROLLO had ceased his designation, but in the following October ROLLO had a talk in Rome with an individual known to Source. The possibility arose that ROLLO had remained in Rome under cover. The fact that Subject was able to confirm ROLLO's departure and give his new assignment confirms the existence of excellent contacts between Subject and ROLLO.

24. The talk with Subject failed to bring out any new elements upon which a further evaluation of the man and his service could be based. It is necessary to recognize, however, that the Israeli service has consolidated its position and that its activity throughout the world seems to be considerable.

25. The following is a current analysis of Subject's service made from material available to Source:

- a. Directive personnel: Elena GROSS, chief; Dr. FAVI, assistant (at); Enrico CASTIGLIONE, who has replaced Don AVI (alias Vittorio P. DEFE) and has taken over the latter's car (KAPOL 1302, PIN-1192, PIN-7569); Antonio, assistant for GS (KAPOL 970, PIN-7733, ROLLO 4677, PIN-5033, and PIN-6515);

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attached
to
Israeli
I.S. in
Rome, Italy

SHOSHANA
Shoshana (a Simon)

- b. Employees: (fmu) SHOSHANA, cashier and typist (nt); (fmu) SHOSHANA, wife of LUZIN (name possibly spelled SCIOSCIANA?); ABRAHAM KIDON, chief of administration and of personnel (given as chief of service in Plan LAINSHIP* (PIR-6396, PIR-7793, KAPOK 1211);
- c. Photographic darkroom: (fmu) GAHAY, member of Palestine Committee of Milan (nt); and
- d. Radio transmitter (station: Machana-SHOSHANA, son of Abraham (nt); Shoshana-LUZIN (PIR-5635 and PIR-6597)).

Subject does not use diplomatic cover because he believes it is superfluous, but in case of difficulty he could immediately obtain the designation of Secretary or Counsellor of Legation.

26. Source [] has furnished a general summary on the material furnished in the previous Plan LACY report regarding the Israeli intelligence service. The report reads as follows:

"It has been reported from a source whose reliability cannot be checked that leaders of the Israeli Army have undertaken a strong attack against the Israeli intelligence service for the purpose of taking over its control. If the military should succeed, the Israeli I.S., while not assuming a decisively pro-Soviet position, would develop its operations along leftist criteria. This situation allegedly is due to the fact that in spite of the results of the elections which have given the Israeli parliament a rightist majority, the MAPAI Party has succeeded in dominating the political life of Israel and in controlling the Army. The fight against the rightists and against pro-western personalities is allegedly due to the hidden intrigues of the present Israeli service chief, SHOSHANA, who for personal reasons favors the military chiefs."

DEFICIT asked that headquarters furnish an evaluation of the above report for his information.

27. A previously unprocessed fragmentary report states that on 10 January 1951 a confidential informant signalled that a few days before, Edmond GROSS had departed by automobile, allegedly for Switzerland, and had returned to Paris or 7 January 1951. After this return, it is believed that he departed again for another mission, because his presence was not noted in the radio and photographic offices of the Israeli Legation in Rome. On 7 February 1951 it was reported that Subject had returned to Rome but as of 5 February he did not appear at his office in the Legation. However, on 8 February he took up his normal activity again, in his office in the Legation.

*Field Comment: There are three main points of conflict in the service organization as given in Plans LACY and LAINSHIP. The former tends to confirm the prime position of Subject, the subordinate position of KIDON, and alleges the inactivity of Silvio COEN. The latter tends to confirm the activity of COEN, indicates the fundamental importance of KIDON, and alleges the inactivity of Subject. Questioned regarding this conflict, Source stated that he believes both are lying in part. The evidence available tends to confirm, however, the fundamental enlargement of the Israeli service from the staff point of view.

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